

Received 1/20/2005

Department of Water Resources
Bulletin 160
901 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 92814

Subject: Volume 4

Gentlemen:

Volume 4 should have great value not only as a reference for the water community and the public, but also a frame of reference so there could be less misunderstandings. However, the Volume must have credibility to have value, and there are questionable items more based on PC than a firm scientific basis.

It is scientifically acceptable to have an hypothesis and then test it. It is not so acceptable for Pacific Research to state opinions and then cite itself as backup. Even the topics on pages do not equate to the table of contents. This may pass for research for the pacific, but not for the non PC. It is poor science and even poor religion.

Speaking of cult facilities of the latter day druids, the State Parks says that the greatest forms of California recreation are camping and bird watching. Were a survey taken at a fishing pier, duck refuge or OHV area, the results might be different. Fishing and hunting are sports whose afficianados do pay to play. Consider just the 11% excise tax on these sports that provides restoration funds which the passive recreations do not.

This does show how the Parks department, with over a million and a half acres, is willing to consider itself a natural resource such as water, timber or wildlife rather than an infrastructure using those resources. This highly politicized agency is used to sell bonds by the State or the initiative pimps with no operating or maintenance funding attached. This leads to raiding of actual resource funds, while simultaneously seeking an even larger empire through the Calfed process and Bulletin 160. The drive for this agency to acquire ever more land is a prime motivation to not consider alternative uses for lands whose current water supply is to be curtailed and which could remain in private, tax paying and better managing hands. Is it any wonder that State Parks and Recreation has been involved in money laundering scandals?

Addenda: *Glossary should have a glossary that shows where policy/semantic differences have arisen as well as for scenario terminology.*

Sincerely,



Dennis Fox

Editorial: Requiring U.S. publishers to get federal

Section

B

Tuesday
December 28, 2004

LOCAL

The Bakersfield Californian • City editor: Bob Christie • 395-7413 • fax: 395-7519 • e-mail: local@bakersfield.com

State park planners want dibs on land

Money not there yet,
but valley needs
attention, official says

By VIC POLLARD

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SACRAMENTO — State park officials are mapping out a long-range strategy to set down new parks in the Central Valley before all the good sites are consumed by development.

Although there's no money for it now, the plan envisions adding thousands of acres to state and local park systems in a region of the state that many believe has too few of them now.

"The valley is a big open space that we really haven't focused on," said Ruth Coleman, director of the state Department of Parks and Recreation. "Growth is inevitable in the valley. I want to make sure we don't miss some great opportunity because we weren't ready."

Coleman's department has devel-

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— Ruth Coleman
Director of the state Department of Parks and Recreation

oped a general outline for the plan, but she and other officials said no deci-

sions will be made until they've heard what valley residents want.

"This is a catalyst for conversation," said Nina Gordon, chief of the department's planning division.

She said the department will soon develop a formal process to receive residents' input on the plan.

Coleman and Gordon said no decisions have been made, but officials are interested in recreational, cultural and historic sites in the Tehachapi Mountains south of Bakersfield, along rivers and other significant places in the val-

PARKS: Tule Elk State Reserve only state facility in Kern

Continued from B1

One of them is Clinton Mungary, director of the Kern Indian Education and Community Resource Center in Bakersfield.

Mungary said he hopes the state will purchase and preserve an area of Tejon Ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains that once contained California's first Indian reservation.

The Central Valley, which stretches from the foot of the Grapevine north to Redding, currently contains 32 state

park facilities. They include museums in urban areas as well as more traditional campgrounds and recreational areas in the foothills.

The only one in Kern County is the Tule Elk State Reserve west of Bakersfield. It protects one of the few remaining herds of tule elk that were once abundant in the valley.

The nearest one outside the county is the Col. Allensworth State Historic Park, commemorating a pioneer black community, northwest of Delano in

Tulare County.

The state's plan was news to many others in Kern County, including officials of the county's Parks and Recreation Department, but they welcomed it.

"I think it's good in terms of development of parkland throughout the state," said Bob Lerude, the department's assistant director.

"But in terms of who manages those park lands and where they are, you're going to find a multitude of opinions."

ley and the surrounding foothills.

A brochure about the strategy posted on the department's Web site also talks about preserving "the romance and history" of Highway 99, the past and present of the area's American Indians, and the history of farming, the Dust Bowl migration, the valley's oil industry and the region's country and western music artists.

Officials have already consulted a number of valley people about ideas for park development.

Please turn to PARKS / B4

WANT TO COMMENT?

The State Department of Parks and Recreation has not yet developed a formal process for public comment on its strategy for expansion in the Central Valley, but in the meantime, comments can be sent to Nina Gordon, chief of planning, California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 94814, or via e-mail, ngordon@parks.ca.gov. On the Internet: www.parks.ca.gov